

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert E. Goozner on 4/13/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 11, line 5, delete "50", and insert --71--.

22. (Currently amended) A plasma purification method comprising using the plasma purification system of claim 16 for treating blood, the process comprising the steps of:

subjecting the blood with a separation membrane which separates the blood into cell components and plasma components;

subjecting the plasma component with a membrane that separates or reduces pathogenic substances from plasma;

mixing the plasma from which the pathogenic substances are remove or reduced with a replenishing solution; and

further mixing the mixture of plasma and replenishing solution with the blood cells components separated by the plasma separator.

23. (Currently amended). The method of claim 22, [for treating] wherein said method treats a disease [, comprising treating] from blood of a leaving body [using the plasma purification system according to claim 16].

24. (Currently amended) [A method for treating a patient suffering from age-related macular degeneration, comprising using the plasma purification system according to claim 16] The method of claim 22, wherein the method is used for treating a patient suffering from age-related macular degeneration.

25. (Currently amended) [a method for treating a patient suffering from hyperlipidemia, comprising using the plasma purification system according to claim 16] the method of claim 22, wherein the method is used for treating a patient suffering from hyperlipidemia.

Reasons for allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: applicant arguments and statement of results discussed in the declaration regarding to the breaking strength (see remarks page 18, last paragraph) and protein and immunoglobulin permeation are persuasive. The position of the skin or region with the smaller pore size, and the step of passing the fluid in contact with the inner surface router surface of the membrane are not critical to determine the allowability of the product. The techniques for changing the membrane asymmetry and PVP concentration at either surface is known from the prior art of record.

Claims 2-25 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ana M. Fortuna whose telephone number is (571) 272-1141. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on (571) 272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Art Unit 1797

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